

REMARKS

Claims 9-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 9, 14, 19 and 24 are herein amended. No new matter has been entered. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Final Office Action dated September 27, 2007.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 9-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by applicant's disclosed prior art (hereinafter 'APA'). Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, to expedite prosecution and clarify the subject matter of the claimed invention, Applicant hereby amends claims 9, 14, 19, and 24. Accordingly, in view of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicant requests reconsideration of the anticipation rejection of claims 9-24.

Applicant notes that anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim.

Following the present clarifying amendments, it is clear that the APA does not disclose a laser module that can be operated with the setting value that is located *within the predetermined temperature setting range and the predetermined power intensity setting range even when the laser module cannot operate within the predetermined temperature variable range at a center value of the predetermined power intensity variable range while the laser light is kept at the predetermined wavelength.* Claims 9, 14, 19, and 24.

Applicant submits that following remarks to further clarify the present invention and to more clearly distinguish the APA disclosed in the specification of the present application.

As described in the original specification in conjunction with Figs. 3A and 3B, the wavelength of laser light emitted by the laser module can be changed by changing the temperature thereof while the power is controlled at the center value P-cent of the predetermined power intensity variable range by APC control. For example, as shown in Fig. 3A, the predetermined wavelength can be obtained at the center value of power P-cent by adjusting the temperature. Whereas, in the example of Fig. 3B, the predetermined wavelength can not be obtained at the center value of power P-cent because the center value P-cent is located outside of the predetermined temperature variable range. Conventionally, for example, the laser module shown in Fig. 3B was omitted. The APC (Automatic Power Control) is intended to merely keep the power of laser light at the center value, and *is not capable of operating the laser module within the predetermined temperature variable range.*

One aspect of Applicant's invention, for example, is shown in Figs. 4A and 4B. Applicant's invention is capable of calculating an optimum power intensity setting range that maintains the predetermined wavelength and falls within a predetermined power intensity variable range. This is implemented, for example, by an optimum power intensity calculating unit defined in proposed amended claim 9. It is to be noted that the present invention does not use only the fixed center value of power P-cent but allows any power within the predetermined power intensity variable range.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention is not anticipated by the APA disclosed in the specification. Thus, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 9-24 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

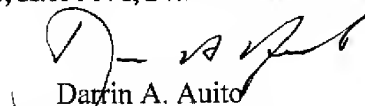
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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